



THE

No. 7

Playground

OCT.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE

1907

PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



ON THE WAY TO THE FESTIVAL FLAG DRILL

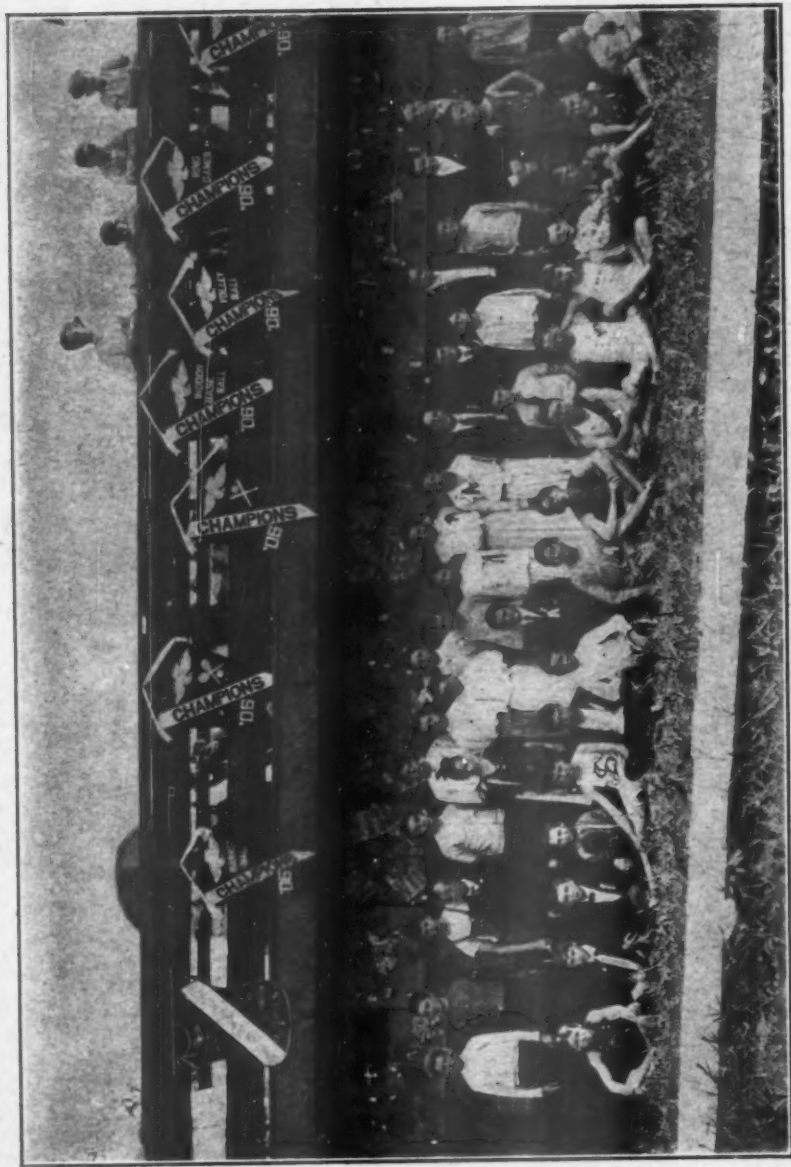
8 ASTOR PLACE

CITY OF NEW YORK

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

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A GROUP OF CHAMPIONS AT THE FINAL TOURNAMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

—JAMESTOWN PLAYGROUND EXHIBIT

JAMESTOWN PLAYGROUND EXHIBIT.

REPORT OF HOWARD BRADSTREET AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL, AUGUST 1ST TO OCTOBER 1ST, 1907.

In accordance with the resolution of July 11th, passed by the Local Quorum of the Executive Committee, a visit was made to Washington and Jamestown July 16th, preparatory to completing the arrangements for the Exhibit. The assignment of space in the Social Economy Building was found to be peculiarly desirable both in location and size, covering, as it did, 25 x 25 near the main entrance. The lecture-room in that building was not yet in a condition which would warrant its use. The site for the outdoor playground also had been well chosen, located on the other side of the grounds from the Social Economy Building and immediately adjoining the building of the Mothers' Congress. Consultation was held with Dr. Curtis in Washington with reference to the form of letter to be sent out securing material for the Exhibit, plans for the playground both as to the details of its operation and the persons to be engaged as assistants. Upon his recommendation, Miss Maria Erskine of Washington was engaged as instructor, and Mr. John H. Chase of Philadelphia as playground supervisor.

Suitable stationery was devised and left in Dr. Curtis's hands to be printed and then sent to New York, from whence the letters would be issued. On July 22d the stationery arrived in New York City, and about two hundred letters were immediately sent to the names on a list furnished by Dr. Curtis.

On August 1st the work in Jamestown began. Contract was let to H. B. Ward & Co. for the ornamental gateways, railings, book-rest and screens for the Social Economy Building. This work was begun quickly and pushed rapidly, and was soon ready for the placing of material.

The Exhibit as a whole was planned to consist of three parts: (1) the lectures, (2) the playground itself, and (3) the educational exhibit.

LECTURES.

The great delay on the part of the administration in completing the lecture hall made it impossible to carry out the original plan of asking representative playground workers to give talks on the theme. It was not until the 23d of September that it was possible to open this part of the Exhibit. A very satisfactory collection of slides had been obtained from Mr. W. L. Coop of the Narragansett Co., representing miscellaneous playgrounds of the United States; from Seth Thayer Stewart, showing the work of the New York Public School system; and from Mr. Lawrence Veiller, giving scenes in New York City. The lectures held from eleven to twelve each day for the week ending October 1st were reasonably successful, attracting quite as many as attended the lectures on other subjects. The

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films for a biograph were taken as illustrative of the lecture course, but the instrument had not been installed by October 1st.

PLAYGROUND.

The same delays in transportation and administration affected the work of the playground. It was not until September 7th that sufficient of the apparatus had been installed to warrant having a formal opening. This was held in the Mothers' Building, Mrs. Theodore Birney, Mrs. MacClellan, Mrs. Kirkland, and other representatives of the Mothers' Congress assisting as hostesses. The attendance both indoors and on the playground was all that could be desired. Music and light refreshments added to the attractiveness of the occasion. Since that time, although the weather was extremely hot and the humidity great, the ground was quite generally used, especially by the boys at the Inside Inn and the Greeks engaged at work nearby.

Mr. Chase, the supervisor of the playground, left September 22d to accept a position in the West.

The apparatus as furnished by Spalding Bros. and the Narragansett Co. comprised the following pieces:

Gymnasium frame, 30 ft. wide, 60 ft. long, 16 ft. high, including:

- 1 Horizontal Ladder—steel construction.
- 2 Inclined Ladders—steel construction.
- 2 pr. Inclined Poles—steel construction.
- 2 Sliding Poles—steel construction.
- 1 Climbing Pole—steel construction.
- 6 Travelling Rings.
- 2 pr. Flying Rings.
- 2 Trapeze.
- 1 Climbing Rope.
- 2 Horizontal and Vaulting Bars.
- 1 Parallel—steel construction.
- 1 Teeter Ladder—steel construction.
- 2 Giant Strides—steel construction.
- 1 Large Swing Frame.
- 1 Baby Swing Frame.
- Basket Ball.
- Seesaws.
- Merry-go-round.

W. S. Tothill of Chicago furnished a slide which proved very popular with the small children.

In course of time the ground was fenced by the Exposition authorities. For several weeks the rooms of the Mothers' Building were used for storage of balls, bats and other equipment. Later, use was obtained of a loft in the adjoining barn for which padlock was provided, and where all of the equipment was placed.

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EDUCATIONAL.

The indoor exhibit at the Social Economy Building may be grouped under the following heads:

(a) *Model*.—A table 6 ft. square was constructed by the contractor, and a model of inexpensive playground apparatus placed on it by Mr. Chase and Miss Erskine, teachers and pupils being represented by dolls. The piece was most successful as an attraction. Some one was in constant attendance to explain its purpose, and it was not an uncommon occurrence to have twenty-five or thirty people grouped interestedly about it.

(b) *Pictures*.—The pictures were received from cities and individuals. Cities—Brooklyn; Buffalo; Boston; Madison, Wisconsin; Los Angeles; Newark, New Jersey; Omaha; Pittsburg; Providence, Rhode Island; Rochester, New York; New York; St. Paul; St. Louis; Montclair, New Jersey; Westfield, New Brunswick; St. John, New Brunswick; Washington, D. C., making seventeen in all.

Individuals—Three frames showing playground plans were received from Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Mass.; sixteen artistic street scenes from Jessie Tarbox Beals; thirteen scenes from the Newspaper Enterprise Association of New York City; six handsomely mounted sets of pictures from Spalding Bros.; two sheets from W. S. Tothill of Chicago, and a very complete set from the Public Schools Athletic League of New York City. Newark, New Jersey, sent a large, handsomely bound book showing the work of the Essex County Park System.

Such of these pictures as came unmounted were grouped and placed in four mahogany cases purchased from the Department of Social Economy at the Exposition.

(c) *Industrial Work*.—The lateness of the invitation to contribute to the Exhibit prevented, of necessity, a satisfactory collection either of reports or industrial work from being gathered. Brooklyn, St. Louis, Newark, Washington, Montclair, and St. John, New Brunswick, sent amounts, however, sufficient to make an effective display. The work included raffia, reed, worsted, sewing, kindergarten weaving, bead work, and whittling, and attracted much attention, displayed on the double frames constructed for that purpose.

(d) *Printed Matter*.—The following books were purchased: Lee—"Constructive and Preventive Philanthropy"; Riis—"Battle with the Slums"; Groos—"Play of Man"; Johnson—"Education by Plays."

Pamphlets were eagerly taken by visitors. The June, July, and August numbers of *THE PLAYGROUND*, pamphlet by Joseph Lee on "Playgrounds in the United States," and statements from Washington, Rochester, and Los Angeles were especially sought for. Beside these, there was a limited supply of *Charities, Mind and Body*,

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and statements of the work at Montclair; St. Louis; Hiram House, Cleveland; University Settlement, Cincinnati.

Spalding Bros. sent a set of catalogues and their complete athletic library. Catalogues were also displayed of the Narragansett Co., Tothill and Medart.

Beside this printed matter were a number of miscellanies, such as report cards, rules for games, buttons used in Washington and other cities.

(c) *Written Reports.*—The following cities, in spite of the brevity of the notice, sent a statement in writing of their work: Maple Avenue Playground, Montclair, New Jersey; Park System of Boston; Men's Welfare League of Dayton, Ohio; the Canadian work under the National Congress of Women; St. Paul; Providence, Rhode Island; Madison, Wisconsin; and Milwaukee.

A number of cities sent word regretting that it was impossible during the vacation season for them to be represented, but would be glad to cooperate another year.

The chief deficiency of the Exhibit as a whole was the lack of club work on the playground, which the abnormal conditions both of administration and distance from cities made impossible.

The chief success was the educational exhibit. The general interest shown in the model and other features was most gratifying, and in itself justified the action of the Association in being represented at Jamestown. Much material should be prepared for circulation during the coming year to meet the needs of the movement. Topics of special significance are: The educational value of play; the necessity for supervision; the relation of the municipality to the playground; the significance of playgrounds in small towns and country; how to procure a playground; how to equip a playground; how to manage a playground.

Miss Erskine was left in charge under Dr. Curtis's direction on October 1st.

HOWARD BRADSTREET,
Director-General of Exhibit.

October 12, 1907.

SCIENTIFIC PLAY.

Play is not play unless it is entirely free and voluntary. Education through play merely contemplates character building and the development of personality by association, leadership, and environment. A scientific knowledge of the possible results of such environment and association is important for those who organize playgrounds, for those who employ the workers, and for those who supervise the work, but there is no thought on the part of any one to restrict the child's freedom in play or hamper it with restrictions merely technical.

The Playground

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The Hon. W. Murray Crane, U. S. Senator	Felix Warburg	\$400
Joseph Lee	John W. Garrett	100
	Robert Garrett	100

For list of sustaining members, 1907, see page 14

The September number of THE PLAYGROUND was most ably edited by Mrs. Caroline McP. Bergen, and some of the work of the Brooklyn Society of Parks and Playgrounds was described most entertainingly and instructively.

Cities in different parts of the country may have special numbers of THE PLAYGROUND devoted to the presentation of their work by arranging with the editor of THE PLAYGROUND for the appointment of a local editor for the special number.

Pittsburg and other cities are now making such arrangements, and it is hoped that other cities will find it agreeable to take part in this work.

Salem, Mass., distributed two hundred copies of THE PLAYGROUND this last spring. The citizens subsequently organized and maintained most successfully through the summer five playgrounds, with ten young college graduates as leaders. An account of this work will be presented later.

A large work is being planned for Cleveland, Ohio, and much has recently been done in various cities and towns in New Jersey, as in Newark and Orange.

Three summer camps were maintained by different societies and individuals on the outer limits of New York City,—one for news-boys, one for tuberculosis patients, and one for kindergarten children and their mothers. The hope is expressed that this work may grow into large proportions in the near future. These were successful in the highest degree, as measured by the enjoyment of the children.



COLORED PLAYGROUND IN OCTOBER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

PLAYGROUNDS IN PARIS.

BY LUTHER H. GULICK.

While in Paris this summer my special interest centered in how the children played. For this purpose I visited the parks and walked the streets in many parts of the city. Organized playgrounds as we have them in America are not conducted in Paris, but the parks are used in a different way from what they are used here. One Sunday afternoon I walked for miles through the great park, the Bois de Boulogne, and saw tens of thousands of young people playing games like Blind Man's Buff, Prisoner's Base, tag of many kinds, circle games—all of them played with freedom and great enjoyment. People were free to walk on the grass, and adults and children played together. A great number had brought lunches, and there were many families. Many footballs were seen, simply being kicked about from one person to the other. There seemed to be few formal games of a team character. To a lesser degree these same activities were carried on in the smaller parks.

I also walked through the ragpickers' and other congested parts of Paris, but found no such congestion as that which obtains in New York City. What congestion there is seems to be of a different character from that which obtains in New York City. Our buildings are higher. Thus our per acre population shows a greater density in proportion to that of Paris than does the density of the floor population in its most congested districts. The parks must be adapted to the per acre population, however, and not to the floor population. For these reasons it is far easier to provide ample park and playground space in Paris than it is in New York. Any plan by which the surface of the earth is used but once is more difficult in New York than in any of the other great cities.

PLAYGROUND SUBSCRIPTIONS TO LOCAL PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATIONS.

The cost of playgrounds has been found in certain cities to be as follows:

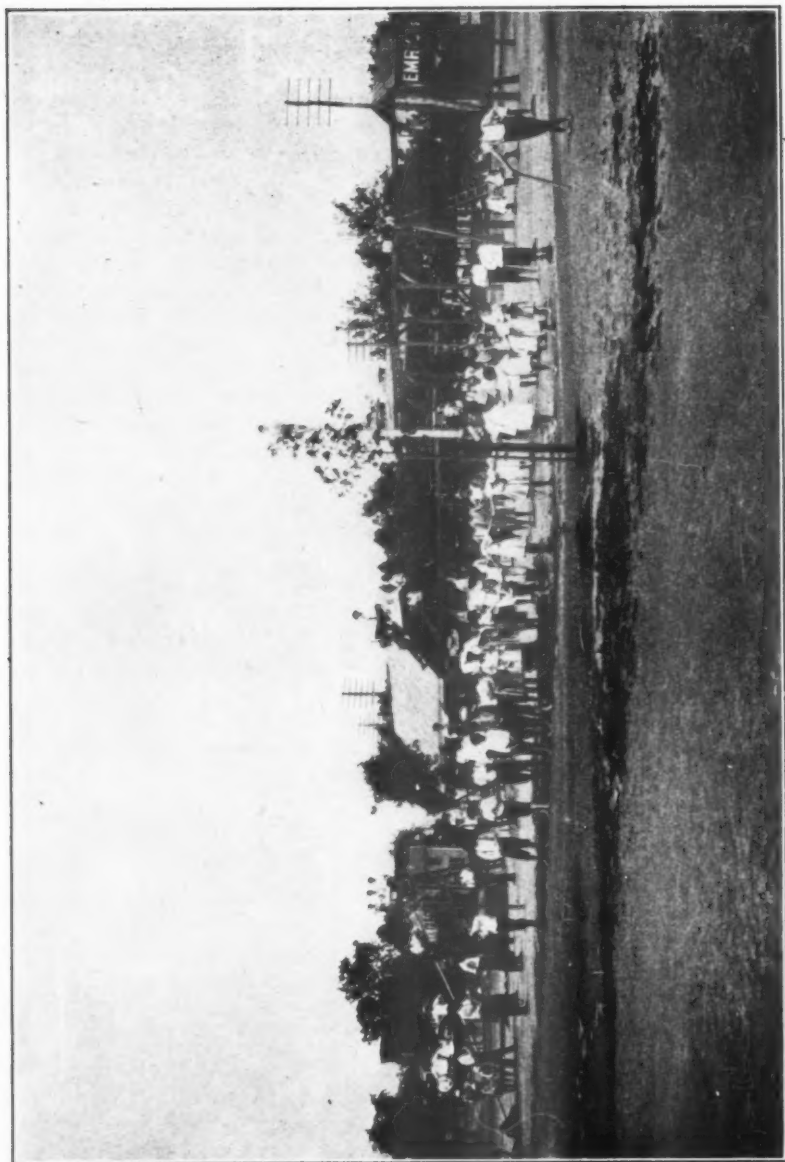
- 1½ cents give a boy or girl a playground for 1 day.
- 10 cents give a boy or girl a playground for 1 week.
- \$1 gives a boy or girl a playground for the summer.

PRIVATE PLAYGROUNDS.

College graduates, young men and young women, have found private play clubs and playgrounds profitable.

The children of the rich need play as well as those of the poor, and the parents are able and willing to pay well for proper leaders.

Cases can be mentioned where the pay has more than supported the leader during post-graduate studies. Play is a necessary part of every child's education, and in a large city parents will pay well for such education.



VIRGINIA AVENUE PLAYGROUND, WASHINGTON, D. C.

—PLAYGROUND TOURNAMENTS

PLAYGROUND TOURNAMENTS.

ONE of the trying questions which every playground administrator has to decide is whether or not he shall hold a final tournament at the end of the playground season, as the culmination of the summer's work, and make all of the activities of the summer lead up to this through a series of preliminary tournaments.

There are many difficulties in the way of holding a series of successful tournaments, and as often conducted they are certainly not worth while. One difficulty is that the directors tend to spend too much of their time on the relatively few children who are entered from each playground for the final contest, either in individual or team events. In some cases I have known the playground as a whole to be almost entirely neglected in order that the director might train a winning team of eight or ten boys.

It is difficult to take boys and girls from one section of the city to another and hold an exciting contest and secure courteous treatment of the visitors from the home ground. This is especially true where different sections are inhabited by different nationalities.

Then, too, the children who attend many of the playgrounds cannot afford to pay car fares to go to the different grounds to compete, and it does not seem like a good social policy to provide car fare to children whether able to furnish it themselves or not.

A final tournament for which the child can enter at any time is almost valueless, as it does not secure systematic training during the summer and the prizes are apt to be taken by children who have been away a good share of the time and may have had their athletic training elsewhere. The cost of securing suitable medals for contestants also may often be a heavy burden upon a young association with limited funds.

On the other hand, we have found in Washington that the disadvantages incident to a final tournament can mostly be counteracted, and there are positive advantages that it is very difficult to secure in any other way. We found in the first place that the children tended to play the games in an indolent lackadaisical fashion without caring much whether they won or lost. A boy or girl would go to the tether-pole and strike the ball first one way and then another without any attempt to win. They would play indoor-baseball with so little interest that they would not even know the score after three or four innings. There was almost no spirit of loyalty to the grounds. The children regarded the playground merely as a place to play, and apparently had no more idea of being loyal to it or working for its welfare than they would have had of being loyal to a vacant lot. They had very little regard to the property furnished them, and vicious ones broke it up or carried it away without eliciting the disapproval of the other children.

These faults are fundamental, and no system is worth much that does not correct them. We have found the system of preliminary and final tournaments the easiest method of correcting not merely

PLAYGROUND TOURNAMENTS—

these faults but of securing other positive advantages. The requirement of the tournament called for, first, regular teams and regular contestants. These teams must have a captain and a team organization, they must have a regular time to play, and contestants must come at a certain hour to practice certain events. A team once or twice defeated finds it necessary to have regular practice and to get in new children in the place of those who do poorly. The interest waxes, and soon there is no event in the neighborhood which is quite so important or so much worth while as the closely contested game of volley-ball, basket-ball or baseball, and you hear these events discussed among the children whenever you go into the neighborhood. This brings with it of course a large increase of attendance.

Loyalty is apt to become so intent that it needs to be checked rather than encouraged, and both teachers and children need to be watched to keep them from over working.

The best way to prevent training of the few at the expense of the many is to have regular contests in these games in the home ground and select the ones who make best records for interplay-ground meets.

At first we began to give out car-tickets rather freely in transporting the children from ground to ground, but we soon found under this arrangement that the children even from well-to-do sections insisted on receiving car-tickets as much as the others. We do not now furnish any car-tickets directly to the children, and for the most part they walk. When the grounds are at a distance, those who can afford it buy their own tickets, and the teacher pays for those who cannot, and gets tickets from us afterwards. But it amounts to only a few dollars' worth in the course of a summer.

We have found a very satisfactory solution of the prize problem here. We give an inexpensive ribbon for winners in championship contests in the home grounds. We give buttons which contain a picture of the Capitol in the centre, with a blue border, for first prize, a red border for second and a dark green border for third prize, for the dual playground meets. These buttons cost us two cents and a half apiece, and we use about 1,600 of them in the course of the summer. They are very much coveted by the children because they are a great decoration upon a white dress or almost any kind of a jacket, and nearly every button is worn. At the end of the season we are giving this year sixteen banners for team events and 106 gold, silver and bronze medals for individual events. These are always contributed by friends who are especially interested in athletics and the children.

I wish, however, to speak primarily of a single problem with which we have had to deal and tell how we have sought to solve it. In previous years it has been a very difficult matter to hold contests between playgrounds in different sections of the city. Nearly always something disagreeable happened. There were disagreements with the umpire, there was crowding and hustling of visitors, and

—PLAYGROUND TOURNAMENTS

often on their departure they were "trotted," which means that they were followed and hooted at or even struck or stoned by children of the home ground. In some cases there were standing feuds between children of different sections of the city which had been handed on from one generation of children to another for a score or more of years. In order to deal with this situation we made at the beginning of the season the following rules:

Ten points shall be given in courtesy and form.

They shall be added to the score of each side if they play a fair game, without disputing decisions of the umpire or "guying" their opponents.

If a playground as a whole is guilty of gross discourtesy to a visiting team, or vice-versa, by stoning them or calling them abusive names, the entire score of this playground shall be cancelled, and no other preliminary contests will be held at the ground the same season.

The tabulated results indicate that even with the points on courtesy and with a deduction for lateness not all of the children were courteous, nor were they all on time at the first meet. At the second meet all the children were courteous, but not all were prompt. The third meet passed off without an incident to mar its record.

The directors set out to win the points on courtesy on their playground if they won nothing else, and they got the children as much interested in it as they were themselves. In some cases vigilance committees of the older and better behaved children were formed, who would go around and caution any child who was saying or doing anything which he ought not. The conduct of the children of all the meets was much better than that of the bystanders, and the children would caution them when they knew them, telling them "We'll lose our points if you don't stop." The writer is of the opinion that these contests have given these children as substantial a lesson in courtesy and promptness and loyalty as it would be easy to give them.

The results of the three preliminary contests this year are shown in the three following tables:

RESULT OF PLAYGROUND CONTEST ON July 24th.

	Score on Events.	Points on Courtesy.	Deduction for lateness.	Final Score.
Ludlow Playground.....	54	10	0	64
and Neighborhood House.....	35	10	0	45
North Capitol.....	59	0	0	59
and Juvenile Court.....	58	10	20 p. c.	58
Rosedale Playground.....	60	10	0	70
and Virginia Avenue.....	75	0	0	75
Jefferson School.....	42½	10	0	52½
and Towers School.....	92½	10	0	102½
5th & W Sts. N. W.....	55	Entire score of girls cancelled for discourtesy	0	55
and Delaware Ave. S. W.....	30		0	30

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RESULTS OF CONTESTS ON July 30th.

	Score on Events.	Points on Courtesy.	Deduction for lateness.	Final Score.
North Capitol.....	53	10	0	63
and				
Rosedale	82	10	0	92
Towers School.....	150½	10	0	160½
and				
Neighborhood House.....	12½	10	0	22½
Virginia Ave.....	75	10	0	85
and				
Juvenile Court.....	70	10	0	80
Ludlow School.....	68½	10	15 p. c.	63½
and				
Jefferson School.....	68½	10	0	70½

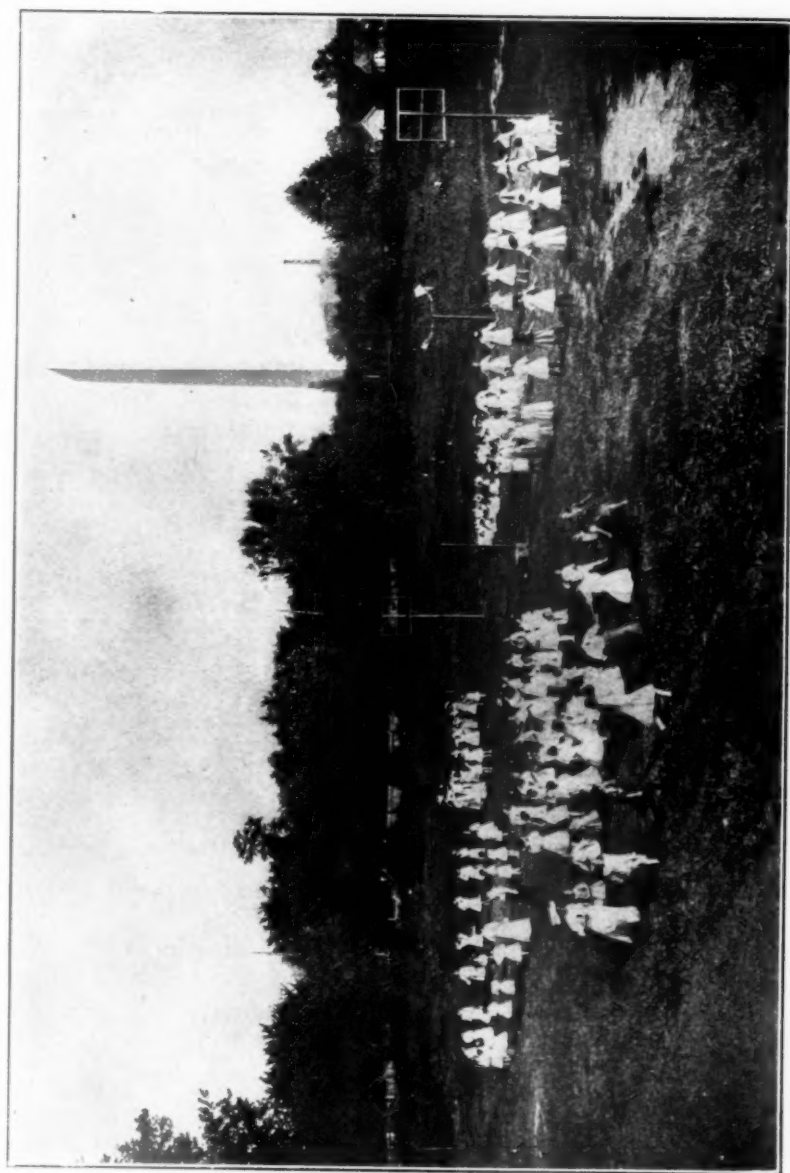
RESULTS OF CONTEST ON August 14th.

	Score on Events.	Points on Courtesy.	Deduction for lateness.	Final Score.	Total Score of 3 Contests.
Ludlow Playground.....	41	10	0	51	183½
and					
Towers	76	10	0	86	349
North Capitol.....	72	10	0	82	204
and					
Virginia Avenue.....	52	10	0	62	214
Rosedale Playground.....	98	10	0	108	270
and					
Progress City.....	42	10	0	52	190
Jefferson School.....	124	10	0	125	275
and					
Neighborhood House.....	29	10	0	39	104½
5th & W Sts. N. W.....	25	10	0	35	In 2 events 90
and					
Delaware Ave. S. W.....	85	10	0	95	125

HENRY S. CURTIS.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS, PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

Name.	Amount.	Name.	Amount.
Dr. Annie J. Anderson.....	\$10.00	J. L. Hudson.....	\$10.00
Joshua L. Baily.....	10.00	Mrs. Richard M. Hoe.....	10.00
Miss Fanny M. Bean.....	10.00	Richard M. Hoe.....	10.00
Mrs. Jul. Beer.....	10.00	James Loeb.....	10.00
Eugene M. Bernard.....	10.00	Mrs. Frank M. Lupton.....	20.00
Mrs. James Tilton Bowen....	10.00	Mrs. Marvin T. Lyon.....	10.00
C. A. Coffin.....	25.00	Miss E. F. Mason.....	10.00
Columbus Playground Ass'n..	10.00	Miss Ida Mason.....	25.00
Frank A. Day.....	10.00	Mrs. Samuel Mather.....	10.00
Robert W. DeForest.....	10.00	Mrs. W. C. Osborn.....	25.00
Norman W. Dodge.....	10.00	Henry Phipps.....	50.00
H. Hartley Dodge.....	25.00	Gifford Pinchot.....	10.00
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W. Gillette.....	10.00	William R. Stewart.....	10.00
Ginn & Co.....	10.00	E. R. Thomas.....	10.00
Miss Mary A. Goodman.....	10.00	Mrs. W. C. Wittemore.....	10.00
E. S. Harkness.....	10.00	W. C. Wittemore.....	10.00
Mrs. Charles J. Hatfield.....	10.00	E. N. Warburg.....	10.00
A. Hemenway, Jr.....	10.00		



PLAY FESTIVAL WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership is classified as follows:

1. *Athletic Members*—Children meeting certain physical conditions hereafter determined; no fee for membership.

2. *Journal Members*.—To receive the journal of the Association, but without vote or eligibility to office; fee, one dollar for the calendar year.

3. *Associate Members*—To receive publications of the Association; fee, five dollars or more, for the calendar year.

4. *Sustaining Members*—To receive publications of the Association; fee, ten dollars or more, for the calendar year.

5. *Council Members*—Officers, Executive Committee, Superintendents of Playground Systems, Founders of Playgrounds, and persons elected by local organizations to this position in accordance with the Constitution; fee, two dollars annually.

6. *Honorary Members*—Persons connected in some distinguished way with the cause, and elected by the Council.

All dues are for the calendar year in which dues are paid, unless another calendar year is indicated by the member at the time of payment.

7. *Patrons*—All subscribing \$100 or more for any one calendar year.

8. *Life Members*—All subscribing \$1,000 or more in any one calendar year.

All dues and contributions include subscription to the monthly journal, *The Playground*.

The names of life members will be published in each number of the magazine.

The lists of sustaining and associate members will be printed in the December number.

The class of patron members has just been organized. The names appear in the present and subsequent numbers.

Any organization in which there are not less than ten Journal Members or other members paying annual dues is entitled to one representative in the Council.

All inquiries should be made to the Secretary and Asst. Treasurer, Dr. Henry S. Curtis, 205 Ouray Building, Washington, D. C.